

AMENDMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS

Please replace all prior claims in the present application with the following claims, in which claim 15 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1, 3, 6-10, 13-14, and 16-19 are amended, and claims 30-35 are newly presented.

1. (Currently Amended) An intelligent service network, comprising:

a programmable switch; and

a switch controller coupled to said programmable switch, and including a service control

means for interfacing with an intelligent service network component of said intelligent service network.

2. (Original) The intelligent service network of claim 1, further comprising:

an intelligent service network component coupled to said switch controller.

3. (Currently Amended) The intelligent service network of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said switch controller further comprises:

a programmable switch support means for providing an interface to said programmable switch; and

a call control means for establishing a connection between ~~two~~ ports on said programmable switch; ~~and~~

~~a service control means for interfacing with said intelligent service network component.~~

4. (Original) The intelligent service network of claim 3, wherein said switch controller further comprises:

a resource control means for allocating resources.

5. (Original) The intelligent service network of claim 3, wherein said switch controller further comprises:

a management interface means for providing an interface to external management systems.

6. (Currently Amended) The intelligent service network of claim 1, wherein said programmable switch ~~is one of: a programmable switch; or~~ includes a digital exchange.

7. (Currently Amended) The intelligent service network of claim 2, wherein said intelligent service network component ~~is~~ comprises one of: ~~a manual~~ an operator ~~console;~~ console, an automated response ~~unit;~~ unit, a service switching control ~~point;~~ point, and a protocol converter.

8. (Currently Amended) The intelligent service network of claim 2, wherein said intelligent service network component ~~is~~ comprises one of: ~~a~~ of a means for accessing ~~data;~~ data, and a means for interfacing with a caller.

9. (Currently Amended) The intelligent service network of claim 2, wherein said intelligent service network component ~~is one of:~~ comprises one of a network information distribution system database coupled to said switch controller via a network information distribution system ~~server;~~ server, an applications ~~database;~~ database, a data distribution system ~~database;~~ or database, and a mainframe database.

10. (Currently Amended) The intelligent service network of claim 2 1, further comprising:

a system management system coupled to said switch controller.

11. (Original) The intelligent service network of claim 1, further comprising:

a force management system coupled to said switch controller.

12. (Original) The intelligent service network of claim 1, further comprising:

a configuration and provisioning system coupled to said switch controller.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The intelligent service network of claim 1, further comprising:

~~a plurality of another programmable switches; and switch~~ a switch controller coupled to said ~~plurality of programmable switches~~ switch controller.

14. (Currently Amended) The intelligent service network of claim ~~13~~ 2, further comprising:

~~a plurality of another~~ intelligent service network ~~components~~ component coupled to said switch controller.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The intelligent service network of claim 1, further comprising:

~~one or more another~~ switch ~~controllers~~ controller; and

one or more intelligent service network components coupled to at least one of said ~~one or more~~ switch controllers.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The intelligent service network of claim 1, further comprising:

~~a plurality of another~~ programmable ~~switches~~ switch; and

~~a plurality of another~~ switch ~~controllers~~ controller,

wherein each of said ~~plurality of~~ switch controllers is coupled to at least one of said ~~plurality of said~~ programmable switches.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The intelligent service network ~~environment~~ of claim 1, further comprising:

~~one or more~~ another programmable ~~switches~~ switch coupled to a public switched telephone network, wherein said public switched telephone network is coupled to a calling device;

~~one or more~~ another switch ~~controllers~~ controller, wherein each of said ~~one or more~~ switch controllers is coupled to at least one of said ~~one or more~~ programmable switches; and

one or more intelligent service network components, wherein each of said one or more intelligent service network components is coupled to at least one of said ~~one or more~~ switch controllers.

19. (Currently Amended) The intelligent service network ~~environment~~ of claim 18, further comprising:

one or more external networks and resources, wherein each one of said one or more external networks and resources is coupled to at least one of said one or more intelligent service network components.

30. (New) A communication system for providing telecommunication services, comprising:

a switch configured to process a call received from a telephony network according to program instructions; and

a switch controller configured to generate the program instructions to the switch for distributing the call to a plurality of network components based on availability of

the network components, wherein the network components and the switch controller are connected over a common data network.

31. (New) A system according to claim 30, wherein the plurality of network components include an intelligent peripheral configured to provide one of operator services, and voice response services based on the received call.

32. (New) A system according to claim 30, wherein the plurality of network components include a network information distribution system configured to access data including one of customer account information, call routing information, and prepaid call information in response to the received call.

33. (New) A system according to claim 30, wherein the plurality of network components include a protocol converter configured to converting protocols of an external resource to a protocol compatible with the data network.

34. (New) A system according to claim 30, wherein the plurality of network components include a management system configured to provide one of work force management, provisioning of resources, and configuration of the resources.